



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# VOLUNTEERS DELIVER FOOD TO PEOPLE IN NEED

For the second year in a row, volunteer members of the South Dakota National Guard organized a food drive to support people in the communities in which they serve.

National Guard volunteers invited members of the community to participate in the food drive by dropping off non-perishable food items at one of the 22 armories located throughout the state from April - June.

More than 3,200 pounds of food was collected for the drive and distributed to social service organizations and food banks across the state.

The Corner Stone Rescue Mission, of Rapid City, who serve the homeless, is one of the many non-profit organizations benefitting from the food drive.

On average, The Corner Stone serves approximately 430 meals a day. Last year they served over 141,000 meals and this year they expect to surpass that number.

This year the food was dispersed throughout 22 communities, as well as the reservations. The food drive, while not an official function of the National Guard, is a welcomed adjunct activity showcasing volunteers' commitment to serve some of South Dakota's most needy people.



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## BERINGER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Richard Beringer, Bon Homme County Veterans Service Officer, has announced he will be retiring on June 30, 2015. Beringer has agreed to serve as a consultant as they hire and train the new VSO. Beringer began his duties with Bon Homme County on September 1, 1995.

During Beringer's tenure he has become known as the cream of the kolache — a great leader that always puts the veteran first!!!!

Beringer says, "the time has come for me to make way for a new person to serve our local veterans. I am thankful each and every day and for the people that I have been so very fortunate to work with (SDDVA, my fellow CTVSO's, and the Bon Homme County Commissioners and staff)."

Bon Homme County will be hosting an open house in his honor on Friday, June 26, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Thanks Rich for all you did for South Dakota's veterans.



## RED VETTER RETIRES

Family, friends and veterans gathered in Cresbard this weekend to say "thank you" and "good bye" to a man that served Faulk County for 40 years.

Wayne "Red" Vetter served as deputy sheriff for 23 years and as veterans service officer for 17 years in Faulk County.

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Swanson attended the celebration and presented Red with a letter of appreciation from SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman.

Thanks Red for your service to South Dakota's veterans!





## VA TO BOLSTER VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS

A new nationwide VA initiative – a “Summer of Service” – seeks the help of residents to create and build partnerships to grow the number of individuals and organizations serving veterans.

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System and VA Dakotas Regional Office are renewing their commitment to veterans by inviting the community to visit and explore opportunities to serve veterans during an open house on June 30, 2015. This will take place from 3:00-5:00 PM in the front foyer of the Sioux Falls VAHCS (2501 W. 22nd Street)

**YOU CHANGING THE WORLD**  
One day, One week, One summer at a time

The VA will be working closely with Congressional partners, veterans service organizations, local communities, private sector, non-profit organizations, and VA employees to identify new and innovative ways to support the VA’s commitment to care for those who “have borne the battle” and their families.

The VA has an outstanding volunteer program, which will be highlighted throughout the country this summer. The VA will build upon the ongoing work of its more than 350,000 employees and 76,000 volunteers around the nation – including approximately 1000 employees and 480 volunteers at the Sioux Falls VA. While the central focus of the campaign will be increasing volunteerism and partnerships, it will also provide individuals and communities an opportunity to support other important priorities. Despite a hiring effort that brought more than 11,000 net-new employees onboard over the past year, the Sioux Falls VA needs specialty health care providers including psychiatrists, emergency medicine physicians, a urologist, an endocrinologist, neurologist, oncologist/hematologist, ENT, plus nurses and housekeepers.

**VA Summer of Service**  
Thank a Veteran. Pledge the gift of time.

Volunteers can help serve veterans by calling the Sioux Falls VA Voluntary Services department at 605-333-6851 to join VA in caring for America’s Veterans or to provide donations. Please call Shirley Redmond, Public Affairs Officer, at 605-333-6889 for additional information.

## ELLSWORTH AFB TO HOST RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

Ellsworth AFB will have a Retiree Appreciation Day on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015. Information booths will be set up at the Base Exchange from 9:00 am (MDT) to 3:00 pm (MDT). Booths will have information on Tricare, health care, legal services, casualty assistance, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Vet Centers, veterans transportation options, and veterans benefits.

A luncheon will be held at the Dakota’s from 11:00 am (MDT) — 1:00 pm (MDT). The luncheon speaker will be a representative from the Federal Long Term Health Care insurance Program.

**Ellsworth  
Air Force Base**



## BOSSLIFT EXPOSES EMPLOYERS TO MILITARY LIFE

About 20 employers from across South Dakota received an inside look at military life at the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's "Bosslift," during the 31st Golden Coyote training exercise, June 10-11.

Nominated for the event by their military employees, the employers experienced weapons training, flight simulators, combat scenarios, early mornings and military meals in two fast-paced days at Camp Rapid and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

"The intent of the Bosslift program is to bring service member's civilian supervisors who are here at Golden Coyote so they can really see what their employees are doing when they go away for annual training," said Ron Mielke, state chair for SD-ESGR.

The days included a weapons simulator, giving the employers a taste of what it's like to fire an M-4 rifle and 50 cal. machine gun and be part of a mounted patrol. They also saw troops practicing how to react to enemy contact and provide first aid on the battlefield.

All of the events highlighted the different military positions Guard members and Reservists lead when they leave the workplace for military duty.

Employers also got in the cockpit of a B1 Bomber flight simulator and saw EOD, or explosive ordnance disposal, equipment to include robots and protective suits at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

ESGR has hosted Bosslifts in a variety of locations, usually at military bases where employer's service members are mobilizing for deployment. However, Golden Coyote offers civilian employers a more extensive list of training experiences, due to the large number of service members who attend every year.





## HORSEMAN NAMED DIRECTOR OF VABHHCS

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Sandra L. Horsman as the new director of the VA Black Hills Health Care System (VABHHCS).

"We are excited to bring Ms. Horsman on board as the new director of the VA Black Hills Health Care System," said Dr. Steven Julius, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23 acting director. "Her sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the health care system, the employees, volunteers, and most importantly, for the veterans we are honored to serve. We anticipate she will arrive at the medical center within the next 30 days to begin her appointment."

Horsman has served more than 30 years in leadership positions within both VA and Department of the Air Force. She most recently served as Chief Human Resources Officer, VA Midwest Health Care Network (VISN 23), Eagan, Minn.

Horsman received her undergraduate degree in Workforce Development and Education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and earned a Master of Science in Business Management from Colorado Technical University. She is a 2009 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Senior Service College (Air War College).

VABHHCS is a dual-campus complexity level 2 system providing a wide range of inpatient and outpatient health services to approximately 20,000 veterans. VABHHCS' service area is categorized as highly rural and extends over 100,000 square miles in western South Dakota, northwestern Nebraska, and eastern Wyoming. VABHHCS is part of the VA Midwest Health Care Network (VISN 23), serving an estimated veteran population of 35,000 in 34 counties in South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska, with an estimated 250,000 annual outpatient visits, and an operating budget of \$158 million as of October 2014.

VABHHCS is one of eight hospitals, 56 community based outpatient clinics or outreach clinics, eight community living centers and four domiciliary residential rehabilitation treatment programs within VISN 23. VISN 23 covers 392,000 square miles and serves 422,992 enrolled veterans residing in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and portions of Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Sandra Horsman has an exceptional background and possesses the leadership, knowledge, and skills necessary to successfully lead the VABHHCS into the future.



## SRST RECEIVES GRANT FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe received a \$200,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide job training and other assistance for homeless veterans living on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven says, "the grant is from the U.S. Labor Department's homeless veterans' reintegration program and is part of a \$35 million grant program. Under the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, grants are awarded on a competitive basis to state and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, and tribal governments, including faith-based and community organizations.

The Standing Rock Reservation covers 2.3 million acres and straddles North Dakota and South Dakota.



## TURNER COUNTY TO WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

Tom Sparrow, Turner County Veterans Services Officer, is coordinating a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" program that will be held during the upcoming Turner County Fair. The event will be held on Tuesday, August 18, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on the Freedom Stage at the Heritage Park in Parker.

The Army Band will be on stage prior to the program.

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and SDDVA Deputy Secretary Pollard have been invited to be keynote speakers for the event. For more information on the Turner County Fair, please visit their website at: <http://www.turnercountyfair.com/carnival>.



**The Four Best Days of Summer**  
**August 17th - 20th, 2015**

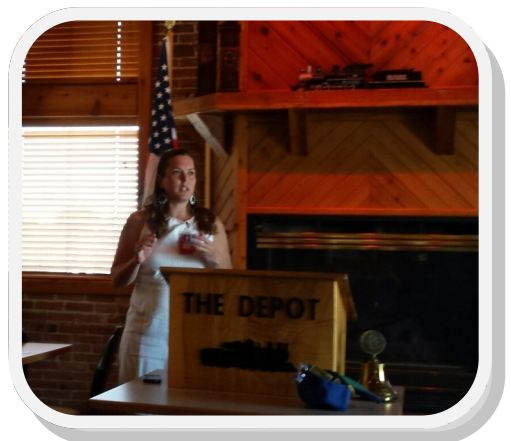
## DAVISON COUNTY CONTINUES TO GROW OUTREACH PROGRAM

Jessica Davidson, continues to strengthen the outreach endeavors in Davison County. Most recently, Davidson addressed the Mitchell Kiwanis Group and updated them on veteran benefits, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veteran's home and about their current drive to supply items for the Home's needs list.

On Friday, August 14, Jessica will be hosting a veterans benefit informational meeting at the Davison County Fairgrounds (3200 West Havens Avenue) in Mitchell from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

On Wednesday, September 16, Jessica will be hosting a VA Veteran's Town Hall at the Davison County Fairgrounds (3200 West Havens Avenue) in Mitchell from 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm.

"I believe that with all of the outreach that Jessica has conducted, she has boosted the traffic in her office and has amplified the number of veterans that are being served in Davison county," said SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen.



## FITZMAURICE TO ATTEND AL WORLD SERIES

South Dakota's Medal of Honor recipient and Vietnam War Veteran Michael J. Fitzmaurice will be recognized and honored at the American Legion World Series August 13-17. The series will be held in Shelby, NC.

Fitzmaurice's attendance will mark the third year a Medal of Honor recipient has attended the AL World Series as a special guest.

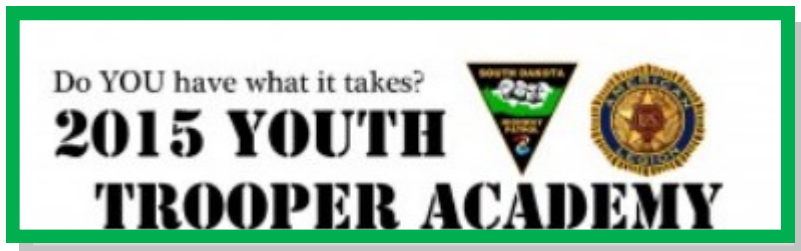


## AL YOUTH TROOPER ACADEMY

South Dakota teens are learning what it is like to train as an actual recruit to the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

The fourth annual Youth Trooper Academy, sponsored by the Highway Patrol and the South Dakota American Legion, is being held at the Mickelson Law Enforcement Training Center in Pierre.

This year's Academy, includes 19 young adults, ages 16 and 17, who are starting their senior year in high school this fall. They were selected by representatives from the Highway Patrol and American Legion.



The academy started Monday and will end with a graduation ceremony Friday afternoon. During the week, the recruits undergo classroom and hands-on training in areas such as firearms safety, defensive driving, crash investigation, traffic stops, leadership, police service dog handling, citizenship and criminal law.

Veteran Highway Patrol troopers serve as mentors and leaders.

## BLACK HILLS JOB FAIR

More than 70 exhibitors gathered at Western Dakota Tech Wednesday to engage with veterans looking for jobs.

The third annual Black Hills Veterans' Job Fair provided veterans and their families with an opportunity to meet face to face with employers from different industries.

Neal Lutke, Alex Purcell and Jamie Guffey from the Pennington County Veterans Service Office were on hand to talk to veterans about benefits and programs.

SDDVA's Ryan Fowler provided information on education benefits and the on-the-job training and apprenticeships programs.





# Upcoming Events

## 2015

Jun.. 25-28—American Legion 97th Annual State Convention—Huron Crossroads Convention Center  
Jul. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
Jul. 15—SD Veterans Council—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am  
Aug. 5-9—AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall Comes to Sioux Falls (Sanford Pentagon Sports Complex)  
Aug. 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota—Pierre  
Sept. 11 — Stand Down—Wagner—National Guard Armory—9:00 am—1:00 pm  
Sept. 18—POW-MIA Ceremony—Sioux Falls  
Sept. 18—Ellsworth AFB Retiree Appreciation Day— Exhibits 9:00 am—3:00 pm (MDT)—Luncheon 11:00 am—1:00 pm (MDT) - EAFB  
Oct. 9—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
Oct. 10—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls  
Dec. 8— Governor's Budget Address—Pierre

Please note —

State offices will be closed  
July 3.

## 2016

Jan. 12—SD Legislative Session Opens—Pierre  
Jan. 14—Veterans Legislative Breakfast—Pierre  
Jan. 27-28—State Tribal Relations Days—Pierre  
April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City



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